

### REMARKS

Claims 1-15 currently remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 were previously amended claims. None of the currently pending claims is herein amended.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Izumi in view of Japanese Patent Publication 2000-242315 (referred to as Hiroyuki). By combining the teachings of these two references, however, even persons skilled in the art will not come up with the idea of the present invention, which is "to control the switching on and off of a back light by a user program of a programmable controller that may be freely edited by the user".

Applicant has already reminded the Examiner that Izumi discloses the control of a back light only by a system program prepared by the maker. The on-off switching condition can be varied by changing the setting, but not through a user program. Izumi does not even refer to a user program.

The Examiner is requested to review the portion of Izumi that explains its reference numeral 13 (column 7, lines 9-20). Izumi explains there that numeral 13 refers to a storage medium and what is stored is "the same program as the operation program of the present invention stored in the ROM 6" and nowhere is it stated that Izumi's ROM 6 is used to store a user program such that it can only be read but cannot be changed. On page 5 of the Official Letter, by contrast, the Examiner identified Izumi's numeral 13 as indicating a user program memory (See the bottom three lines) which is different from the ROM 6 and stores the user program. This is not what Izumi says in column 7 at lines 7-20. The Examiner is not justified in calling the storage medium of Izumi as the user program memory because there is no statement that a user program should be stored there.

In page 4 at lines 11-18 of the Official Letter, the Examiner explains why Hiroyuki is being relied upon, but it is a known technology to connect a programmable controller with a display device and to cause the display device to display the contents of the memory of the programmable controller. There is nothing new in this technology. What is noteworthy is not what Hiroyuki does disclose but what Hiroyuki does not disclose. What Hiroyuki does not disclose is the technology of control the switching on and off of the back light by the user program of the programmable controller that can be edited freely by the user.

Hiroyuki may be said to make it obvious to a person skilled in the art to control the switching on and off of the back light by the system program of a programmable controller but there is no hint at this control being carried out by the user program that can be freely edited by the user.

It is therefore to be concluded that the present invention will not result as a simple combination of the teaching of Izumi and Hiroyuki, and it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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